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THE DESCRIPTION

OF THE

BOROUGH OF READING: Pa.

Containing its Population, Institutions, Trade, Manufactures, &c. &c., with a Notice of its First Settlement, and many curious Historical Matters.

By Major WILLIAM STAHLE.

READING:
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

....

1841.

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PREFACE.

The judicious reader reads the *preface* of a book. He will carry to the perusal of the after pages a mind much better prepared to understand and be profited by the labors of the author, if he has seen his plan unfolded, and obtained an insight of the process of its execution, in the prefatory chapter.

The writer of the following pages, who, as is the case [illegible] from writing [illegible] was prevailed on to undertake the task by the [illegible] of numerous friends, and his own conviction that a work of the kind was greatly needed.

It has been my design to render this volume a complete description of Reading, by giving a full and perfect statistical view of the borough at the present time, and introducing such passages from its early and later history as would afford an idea of its growth from infancy up, and also such isolated facts as were interesting in themselves, or by contrast with the present.

That the execution of this design was not free from difficulty, may be inferred from the fact that it was undertaken many months ago, and has been prosecuted with unremitted diligence to the present moment. The difficulties attending a work of this description far exceed those of ordinary [illegible]

ship. It is easy to write an essay, or a plausible argument, on almost any subject, but difficult to ascertain facts. It is pleasant to sit at one's ease and write out a tale of fictitious love or woe; not so, to scour the streets, noting the material, and measuring the height of houses, and inquiring into the business of their inmates. It was the gathering of the *material* for the book that gave me the most trouble, and it is in the fidelity with which this task has been performed, that its principal merit consists. As to the act of composition—that was comparatively a trifling matter: though the exercise of considerable judgment was required in the *arrangement*; and much discretion, in the *remarks* which I have found occasion to make on various subjects, as they came up in the course of the work:—these I have always offered with a grave sense of the responsibility resting upon me as an author.

I must return my acknowledgments to several gentlemen who have furnished me with valuable information, without whose kind assistance the book must have been comparatively imperfect. I have also derived no little statistical information from a series of articles printed about two years ago in the Berks and Schuylkill Journal, under the title of "Reading as it is." I have on one or two occasions made short extracts from these, and also from articles published in other papers of the borough—always, however, giving credit to the writers, who, no doubt, will properly appreciate the favor conferred, in elevating them from news-paper obscurity, and redeeming their productions from the tomb of oblivion which had already closed over them, to perennial life in the following pages.

That there are, perhaps, books to be found, more entertaining to the general reader than the one now offered to his per

sal, I am not vain enough to deny. Indeed, I am fully sensible that there are some passages in this work, such, for instance, as the lists of houses, the enumeration of trades, vocations, &c., which to many may seem a little dry; still, they are desired not to close the book, or make omissions, but go on. Instruction is not to be slighted merely because incapable of affording entertainment. When, in my youthful days, my venerated grandfather, in his daily reading out of the old family Bible, happened sometimes to hit upon one of those long chapters of names of families, tribes, and kindreds, in the book of Numbers, it didn't do for me to discover impatience, or refuse to listen. Nor was it any more safe to demur, when every new schoolmaster required us, as a first morning's exercise, to read how Abraham begat Isaac, and Isaac begat Jacob, and so on till all were begotten.

If rigid in my requirements of the Reader, I am by no means indifferent to his comfort. I have accordingly interspersed my pages with many pleasant passages, for his special delight and encouragement—thus attaining unto the perfection of authorship, in the union of the utile dulci.

READING, JANUARY, 1841.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Page.

Chapter I. Location and first settlement of Reading—Wards—Extent of the Town. - - - 9

Chapter II. The Changes of Reading, taken at different times since its first settlement, together with a List of Inhabitants, number of Taxable Citizens, &c., with remarks. - - - - - 13

Chapter III. List of Churches, showing their location, dimensions, dates of their erection, Pastors, &c. - 19

Chapter IV. Courts—Judges—Attorneys—County Officers—Justices of the Peace—Surveyors—List of Sheriffs—Physicians and Apothecaries. - - 22

Chapter V. Merchants and Traders—Mechanics—Business Cards, &c. - - - - 25

Chapter VI. List of Public Hotels and Inns—Streets—Bridges—Markets. - - - 33

Chapter VII. Post Office—Arrival and departure of the Mails, Cars and Stages—Printing Offices—Banks—Public Buildings. - - - - - 38

Chapter VIII. Manufactures and Public Improvements. Iron Works—Canals and Rail Road—Water Company—Mineral Spring. - - - - 45

Chapter IX. Education. Reading Academy—Female Seminary—Private, Infant and Free Schools—Sunday Schools. - - - - - 51

Chapter X. Societies, Charitable and Literary—Libraries. 55

Chapter XI. Government of the Borough of Reading—Watchmen—Fire Companies. - - - 59

Chapter XII. Miscellaneous Matters—Conclusion. - 62

ERRATA.

Page 38, *for* Chapter VI, *read* Chapter VII.

" " *line* 12 *from bottom, for* Easton *read* Eastern.

" 55, *line* 12 *from bottom, for* Masonic Fraternity, *read* Washington Benevolent Society.

" 11, *line* 5 *from top, for* 1790 *read* 1770.

" 53, *line* 11 *from top, before* appropriation, *insert* annual.

" 45, *bottom line, for* have, *read* has.

" 19, *line* 11 *from the bottom, for* adds, *read* add—*and make the reasonable corrections, should other errors be found.*

THE

DESCRIPTION OF THE

BOROUGH OF READING.

CHAPTER I.

LOCATION AND FIRST SETTLEMENT.—GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—WARDS.—EXTENT OF TOWN.

READING, is beautifully situated on the eastern side of the river Schuylkill, in 40° 20′ N. Latitude, and Lon. 1° 03′ E. from the city of Washington. Its distance from Philadelphia is fifty-two miles, and it is the same distance from Harrisburg.

The following interesting account of the location of the town, and its first settlement, is transcribed from an article in the Ladies' Garland, for February, 1839.

"As early as 1733, warrants were taken out by John and Samuel Finney, and 450 acres of land surveyed under their sanction, which are now entirely embraced within the limits of Reading. Whether the inducements to this selection were other than its general beauty and fertility, it is now difficult to say, though it is asserted that when the Proprietaries, John and Richard Penn, became aware of its advantages, and proposed to re-purchase for the location of a town, the Messrs. Finney long and firmly resisted all the efforts of negotiation. This produced a momentary change in the design of the Proprietaries, as they employed Richard Hockley to survey and lay out the plan of a town on the margin of the Schuylkill opposite its confluence with the Tulpehocken. This survey is still to be found on record, though divested of any date or name

by which the precise period in which it was made can be ascertained. It is now only known as an appended portion to Reading, under the designation of the 'Hockley Out-Lots.'

"The importance as well as reality of the design now appears to have subdued the objections of the Finneys to the sale of their claim, as they immediately relaxed in their demands, and finally yielded them to the proprietaries, who at once caused the 'Hockley plot' to be abandoned, and in the fall of the year 1748, that of Reading to be laid out.

"The difficulty in obtaining water even at great depths through the limestone, was the specious reason generally assigned for the sudden vacation of the former site, as the new one was remarkable for the numerous large and copious springs existing within its limits.

"Thus Thomas and Richard Penn, proprietaries and governors in chief of the province of Pennsylvania, became private owners of the ground plot of Reading, the lots of which they carefully subjected in their titles to an annual quit or ground rent. Singular as it may seem, this claim became almost forgotten through neglect, and the circumstances that resulted from the change in the *old order* of things produced by the revolution; indeed when recurred to at all, it was generally believed to have become forfeit to the State, by the nature of that event. But a few years ago it was revived by the heirs, and its collection attempted under the authority of the law; but so excited were the populace, and adverse to the payment of its accumulated amount, that it was generally, and in some cases, violently resisted, till the deliberations of a town meeting had suggested measures leading to a more direct, amicable and permanent compromise.

"Like most of the primitive towns of the State, Reading is indebted for its name, as is also the county in which it is situated, to the native soil of the Penns.

"Its area comprises about 2194 acres of a rich calcareous soil, sloping gently from Penn's Mount, an elevation on its eastern side, to the river Schuylkill; thus presenting natural

facilities for its drainage, and the prevention of accumulated filth, and adding a decided feature to its well established character for health.

"The streets intersect each other at right angles, and form in their direction almost correct indices to the cardinal points of the compass. Their original names were retained to a very recent date, (Aug. 6, 1833,) and were characteristic of the loyalty of the proprietary feeling, as well as family attachment and regard:

"King, Queen, Prince, Duke, Earl and Lord streets, sufficiently evidence the strength of the former, whilst the main or central streets, Penn and Callowhill, are as distinctly indicative of filial regard.

"Hannah Callowhill, their mother, was the second wife of William Penn, and had issue beside *Thomas* and *Richard*, of John, Margaret and Dennis, whence also had originated the names of Thomas, Margaret and Richard Streets. Hamilton Street from James Hamilton, Esq., who was Deputy Governor of the Province at that period.

"The names now substituted 'as more compatible with the republican simplicity of our present form of government,' are similar to those of Philadelphia, as the streets running north and south commence at Water street, on the Schuylkill, and extend to Twelfth street, while those running east and west are called Penn, Franklin, Washington, Chesnut and Walnut streets.

"In 1751, Reading contained 130 dwelling houses, besides stables and other buildings—106 families, and 378 inhabitants, though about two years before it had not above one house in it.

"By the census of 1830, the population had increased to 5631, and it now may be safely estimated at about 8,000.

"The original population was principally Germans, who emigrated from Wertemberg and the Palatinate, though the administration of public affairs was chiefly in the hands of the Friends.

"The former by their preponderance of numbers, gave the decided character in habits and language to the place, as the German was almost exclusively used in the ordinary transactions of life and business, and is yet retained to a very great extent."

The borough is divided into four nearly equal parts by the intersection of its principal streets—Penn and Fifth. This division is recognized in various borough arrangements, and is of much practical convenience.

The houses are numbered from these streets. The boundaries of the *Wards* are also marked by them.

There are four wards, deriving their names from their relative local situations. The *N. E. Ward*, includes that portion of the town lying between North Fifth and East Penn streets. The *S. E. Ward*, that part embraced between East Penn and South Fifth streets. The *S. W. Ward*, between South Fifth and West Penn streets. The *N. W. Ward*, between West Penn and North Fifth streets.

Reading is the largest borough in the United States. The extent of the compact part of the town at present, is about one mile east and west, from the Schuylkill to Twelfth street, near the foot of Penn's Mount: and about half a mile north and south, from Walnut to Chesnut street. The town lies pretty much within the above limits, though it is now rapidly extending south, in the neighborhood of Fourth and Fifth streets. Indeed, for the last few years, the course of improvement has taken a decided southern and south-western direction. This is owing principally to the business furnished by the Schuylkill canal, and by the extensive manufacturing establishments which have been erected along the bank of the river, in this part of the borough. The great advantages possessed by this spot for manufacturing purposes, advantages only lately discovered, and but just beginning to be improved, will no doubt make this part of the borough the residence of a numerous population of mechanics and laborers, and enterprising citizens of every description. It may safely be predicted that within

twenty years from this time, those fertile fields between the rail road and the river, will all be converted into *town*, compactly built.

CHAPTER II.

THE CENSUS OF READING, TAKEN AT DIFFERENT TIMES SINCE ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT, TOGETHER WITH A LIST OF HOUSES, NUMBER OF TAXABLE CITIZENS, &c.

The first census of Reading of which we have any account, is the one mentioned in the preceding chapter, for the year 1751, when the number of inhabitants was 378. I have not been able to find a record of any subsequent census, previous to that of 1810; but judging from the number of taxable citizens returned for the year 1769—twenty years after the settlement of the place—the whole number of inhabitants must have been at that time about 1000 or 1200.

In 1810, the population of the borough amounted to		3,462
In 1820 it had increased to,		4,273
In 1830 the returns gave—White males,	2,693	
" females	2,746	
Colored males and females,	192	
Making a total of		5,631

The census of 1840 is as follows—

White Persons.	*Males.*	*Females.*
Under 5 years of age,	651	657
5 and under 10	526	538
10 and under 15	414	440
15 and under 20	447	626
20 and under 30	827	798
30 and under 40	457	428
Carried forward,	3322	3487

White Persons.	*Males.*	*Females.*	
Brought forward.	3322	3487	
40 and under 50	261	308	
50 and under 60	186	249	
60 and under 70	83	117	
70 and under 80	39	70	
80 and under 90	6	10	
90 and under 100	0	3	
100 and upwards	0	0	
	3897	4244	8141

Coloured Persons.	*Males.*	*Females.*	
Under 10 years of age,	36	37	
10 and under 24	38	38	
24 and under 36	30	29	
36 and under 55	18	19	
55 and under 100	3	3	
100 and upwards	0	0	
	125	126	251

Whole population, 8,392

Deaf and Dumb, 1

Blind—White persons, 1

Coloured persons 2

There were, according to the census, nine revolutionary soldiers, pensioners, yet surviving in Reading, viz:

Michael Spatz,	aged	78
Sebastian Allgaier,	"	83
Peter Stichter,	"	73
Aaron Wright,	"	73
Henry Styles,	"	84
Christian Miller,	"	83
William James,	"	79
Joseph Snablee,	"	84
John P. Nagle,	"	83

The number of taxable inhabitants of the borough of Reading, is	1795

They are divided as follows, viz:

Married men,	1378
Single,	417

In 1769, they stood thus—

Married,	223
Single	18

It appears from this statement, that the proportion of married to single men in the borough, above twenty-one years of age, has changed materially since 1769. *Then*, the latter stood to the former in the ratio of about 1 to 13; *now*, they stand in the ratio of 1 to 3, nearly.

The following enumeration of Dwelling Houses in the borough showing their number, size, material, &c., may not be uninteresting, viz:

2	4	story	Brick	2
54	3	"	"	54
394	2	"	"	394
328	1	"	"	328
92	2	"	Frame	92
247	1	"	"	247
53	2	"	Stone	53
40	1	"	"	40
8	2	"	Log	8
147	1	"	"	147
				1365

There are also several buildings occupied as offices.

Seventy-seven houses, included in the above number, were erected during the last year; one of which, built by Mr. Daniel H. Boas, goes by the name of the *Forge Hammer*, from its resemblance in shape to that favorite implement of Vulcan. When applied to by the builders for a *plan*, Mr. Boas sent them a forge hammer for their model. The result was a rather odd-

looking, but very convenient house. It is a two-story frame building, situated at the canal landing.

It appears, on comparing the foregoing result with the number of inhabitants, that there is yet occasion for more dwelling houses in Reading, notwithstanding the great number which have been lately built. The proportion of inhabitants to the houses is unusually large—larger, probably than a strict regard for health and convenience would allow. These circumstances, however, furnish pretty sure evidence of the flourishing condition of the borough; and from the abundance of *capital* in the place, and the well known enterprise of our mechanics, there is very little doubt that, in future, the erection of houses will keep pace with the wants of our rapidly increasing population.

Remarks upon the Census of 1840.

It appears from the table at the beginning of the present chapter, that the chances of longevity are decidedly in favor of the female sex. I believe this has been usually observed to be the fact. It is variously accounted for,—as most remarkable phenomena are. Some ascribe it to the circumstance of their being less exposed to hardships, and severe exertion of body and mind. Others, to their temperate habits, and the greater freedom of their lives from exciting and corroding causes. There is one other hypothesis in regard to it, which I will just notice, in respect of the source from which it comes, although it appears to me to be highly ridiculous. It is the hypothesis, or rather, *positive opinion*, of an old companion and friend of mine, a physician, in pretty extensive practice among the ladies—having quite a number of fair patients-for-life, under his charge, upon whom he calls professionally at short stated intervals; and receives for his service a yearly salary from their fathers and husbands. He insists, that the more common longevity of females, is owing to their living in greater dependence upon medical advice and assistance, and plentiful use of nostrums:—or as he expresses it, "to their

walking in the fear of the Doctor." He proves his theory, singularly enough, by what he calls the *analogy of a lamp!* Life, says he, goes on much upon the same principle as a lighted lamp gives out its illuminating particles. When the oil of the lamp is exhausted, the flame expires. So when the quantity of life-sustaining force and power allotted to an individual is expended, his breath ceases. And, as, the more you reduce and weaken the flame of your lamp, the longer it will continue to burn and shed its sickly light; so, the more languid and inefficient you render existence, the longer will you keep the faint breath of life in human nostrils.

The number of females, at the present time exceeds that of males, by about 350. This great inequality has principally grown up within the last ten years; as in 1830, the difference was only about fifty. The circumstance is a little surprising, when we consider that this has been the period of the greatest prosperity of our borough, so far as population is concerned. When the prosperity of a town begins to wane, and people are emigrating and moving away, instead of coming into it from other places, it is a common thing for the proportion of females to gain upon that of males; for single gentlemen, on account of their greater freedom from incumbrances, are usually the first to emigrate, leaving their female cotemporaries behind. But here, there has been no such cause in operation, r the increase of population has been so great as to require he aid of considerable *immigration.*

In what may be called the middle age of life—between twenty or perhaps twenty-five and forty, the number of males little exceeds that of females. But above or below these ages, the account is greatly in favor of the latter. The greatest inequality takes place between the ages of fifteen and twenty—an inequality singularly great, amounting to considerable more than *four* females to *three* males.

It would be interesting to know the number of unmarried males and females, within some of the periods noted in the table of the census,—say, from 15 years upwards. The num

ber of the latter must be very large; and many of them would be left unprovided with husbands, even should the young men all make haste to get married betimes. This, however, seems by no means to be the fact with them, judging from the great number of single men, *taxed* as noticed above, who are of course all more than twenty-one years old.

In 1769, there were only *eighteen* taxable single men in the borough. Matrimony flourished then. But the times are sadly changed now! The fault is not altogether with the young men; nor are the ladies to be rashly charged with unkindness. The truth is, that the expense of living, especially in the style of fashion, has become so extravagantly great, that a large portion of the more *genteelly bred* young men, are, from the insufficiency of their income, under the severe necessity of indefinitely postponing matrimony. A mutual consciousness of this necessity, occasions mutual forbearance between the sexes. Thus are luxury and false notions of gentility extinguishing the fires upon the altar which burned brightly in Reading in 1769.

It was my intention to give the number of births, marriages and deaths for the preceding year, but from the great difficulty of the undertaking, and the impossibility of accuracy, I was obliged to abandon the design. From the inquiries I made however, it appears that while the number of marriages and deaths has been only moderate, that of births has been unusually large. It appears farther, that among the births there has been a surprising proportion of *females*. Some idle persons have taken it into their heads to account for this phenomenon. Here, as usual, a difference of opinion exists,—some maintaining that it is owing to its having been leap year,—others, more wildly still, ascribe it to the force of royal example.

CHAPTER III.

A LIST OF THE CHURCHES IN READING, SHOWING THEIR LOCATION, DIMENSIONS, DATES OF THEIR ERECTION, PASTORS, &c.

THE first house of public worship in Reading, was probably that erected by the Friends. It was a log house, built in 1750, (about one year after the first settlement of the town,) and stood on their burial ground. It was torn down in 1766, and rebuilt where it now stands. It is a one story log house, and situated in Washington street, between Fourth and Fifth. The school house, also of logs, was built in 1787, near the meeting house.

The German Reformed Church, was organized soon after the settlement of Reading. The exact date of its organization, however, as well as of the erection of their first church edifice, has not been ascertained. The present building was erected in 1832. It is a two story brick building, 75 feet in length and 55 in breadth. The steeple is 151 feet high.

Building Committee.—Nicholas Lott, Baltzer Smith, Daniel Fesig, John Y. Cunnius, Abraham Kerper, John Miller, Esq.

Masons.—Henry and George Graul, John and George Maltzberger.

Carpenters.—Nicholas Lott, James Quinter, George Call.

This church has two bells, one of which is from the former church, which had been built in 1762. The bell was cast in 1763, by Thomas Bailey of Bridgewater. The school house belonging to the congregation, is built of brick and is a very ancient building. The Rev. WILLIAM PAULI is pastor of this church.

The German Lutheran Church was organized shortly after the German Reformed; the congregation long occupied a small log building, situated at the corner of Washington and Sixth streets, where their church now stands. The present church was erected in 1791. It is a brick building, 61 by 51 feet square, and is the largest church in Reading. It has very large galleries, and will accommodate 1500 persons.

Building Committee.—Peter Filbert, John Witman, John Rightmyer, Michael Kraus, Michael Rapp, Matthias Babb.

Carpenter.—John Cunnius.

Mason.—John Strohecker.

The steeple was erected from the square in 1833, by Conrad, William and Joseph Henry. The timber for its construction, was presented by Jacob W. Seitzinger, of Cumru. The height of the steeple is 201 feet and 6 inches. It has *three* bells, one of which was taken from the former church, and was cast in 1755, by Henry Keppele of Philadelphia. The school house of the congregation, near the church, is an ancient looking one story stone building, erected in 1765. The church is under the pastoral charge of the Rev. JACOB MILLER.—In this church and in the German Reformed, divine service is performed in the German language.

The *Catholic Chapel* is situated in Seventh, between Franklin and Chesnut streets. It was erected in 1791—is a one story brick building, 20 feet high to the square—50 feet long, by 30 in breadth, and will accommodate about 300 people.

Building Committee.—Sebastain Allgaier and Anthony Fricker.

Carpenter.—John Cunnius.

Mason.—John Strohecker.

Pastor.—Rev. FRANCIS X. MARSHALL

The *Presbyterian Church*, was erected in 1824. It is a brick building, 75 feet in length and 40 in breadth, including the [illegible] and will accommodate 600 people. It is situated in Penn, between Second and Third streets.

Building Committee.—Lewis Reese, William James, Samuel [illegible].

Rev. WILLIAM STERLING, is pastor.

The *Episcopal Church* was erected in 1826. The building is of brick, and [illegible] feet high, besides a basement story of 3 feet. Its size is about 50 by 35 feet square, and will accommodate [illegible] persons. The tower is 75 feet high, and has a small but very good bell suspended in it. The church is

pleasantly situated in North Fifth, between Penn and Washington streets.

Building Committee.—George D. B. Keim, Nathaniel P. Hobart, Benneville Keim.

Master Mason.—George Maltzberger.

Carpenter.—George Call.

Pastor.—Rev. R. U. MORGAN.

The *Methodist Church*, is a plain brick building, 65 feet in length and 50 feet in breadth. This church was erected in [illegible], is built in modern style, and in good taste; and will probably accommodate more people in proportion to its size, than any other church in Reading. It has a high and commodious basement story, entirely above the surface of the ground. It is pleasantly situated in South Fourth, between Penn and Franklin streets. *Building Committee.*—The Rev. Mr. Roach, Daniel Rhine, Jacob Gossler, Henry Goodhart, Wm. Bode. *Carpenter*—Joseph A. Snyder. *Masons*—George Graul, Charles Seider. *Plasterer*—Thomas McCombs. Present *Pastor*, Rev. SAMUEL HIGGINS.

The *Baptist Church.*—This society formerly occupied a meeting house near the river Schuylkill; but the location was found a bad one, and in 1837, a new brick church was erected in Chestnut, near Fourth street, by the Rev. Enoch M. Barker, the pastor at that time, which he afterwards conveyed to the society. It is a plain building, 40 by 50 feet square, and will contain about 300 people.

Carpenters.—Nathaniel Kirby, Jacob Bingler.

Mason.—George Maltzberger.

The Rev. ENOS M. PHILLIPS, is the present pastor.

The *Universalist Church*, is a handsome brick building, situated in Franklin, between Fourth and Fifth streets. It was erected in [illegible]—is 60 feet in length and 40 feet in breadth, and will accommodate about 500 persons. It has a steeple with a bell suspended in it.

Building Committee.—Gen. George D. B. Keim, John Ritter, John Green, Daniel H. Boas, John Brown, Jacob Marshall.

Masons.—John Maltzberger, George Graul.

Carpenter.—Arnold Maynard.

This Church is at present without a regular pastor, but the Rev. JOHN PERRY, the former pastor, occasionally officiates.

Besides the above, there are three small churches belonging to the colored population, viz: The *Union African Church*, which is a small frame building, situated at the corner of South Ninth and Franklin streets.—The *Presbyterian African Church*, also a frame building, situated in Washington, between Tenth and eleventh streets.—The *Methodist African Church*, in Tenth, between Washington and Walnut streets. It is built of brick, and has a basement story. The Rev. SAMUEL MURREY is pastor. In all the above churches, there are regular meetings on the sabbath, accompanied with the usual religious exercises, and a pretty strict course of religious discipline; with what results may be partly gathered from the general good character, and industrious, steady habits of our colored population.

CHAPTER IV.

COURTS.—JUDGES.—ATTORNEYS.—COUNTY OFFICERS.—JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.—SURVEYORS.—LIST OF SHERIFFS.—PHYSICIANS.

THE subject of the Courts does not come strictly within the scope of a treatise upon the statistics of *Reading*. I will therefore merely mention that the courts of Quarter Sessions, Orphans' Court, and Common Pleas, are held four times a year, commencing on the first Mondays of January, April, August, and November, and continuing two weeks.

The Judges at the present time, are—*President*—Hon. JOHN BANKS. *Associate Judges*—MATTHIAS S. RICHARDS and WILLIAM H. ADDAMS, Esq'rs.

Cryer.—JOSEPH RITTER.

The following are the names of the Attorneys of the Court. together with their places of business. The whole number is twenty-six; the two first on the list, however, have retired pretty much from practice, and seldom attend court.

Marks John Biddle,	Office,	S. Fifth, near Franklin st.
Charles Evans,	"	S. Fifth, near Chesnut st.
David F. Gordon,	"	Penn, near Fifth.
Peter Filbert	"	Fifth, near Washington.
Elijah Dechert.	"	Penn. near Fourth.
Charles Davis.	"	N. E. cor. of Penn & Sixth.
Henry W. Smith,	"	Penn near Sixth.
Jacob Hoffman,	"	Penn between Third & Fourth
William Strong,	"	Fifth near Washington.
William Darling,	"	North Sixth, near Penn.
Robert M. Barr,	"	North Sixth, near Penn.
Henry Rhoads,	"	Penn, near Seventh.
George G. Barclay,	"	North Fifth, near Penn.
J. Pringle Jones,	"	Penn between Fourth & Fifth.
Franklin B. Schœner,	"	North Fifth near Penn.
Wm. C. Leavenworth.	"	North Fifth near Penn.
A. F. Miller,	"	Fifth bet. Wash'n & Walnut.
A. M. Sallade,	"	North Sixth near Penn.
J. S. Richards,	"	Penn between Fourth & Fifth.
D. W. O'Brien,	"	N. E. corner of Penn & Fifth.
Peter Shearer,	"	Penn near Sixth.
William H. Hiester.	"	Penn between Fourth & Fifth.
George E. Ludwig,	"	North Fifth, near Washington.
Jeremiah D. Bitting,	"	Penn, below Third.
Matthias Mengel,	"	Penn, near Fourth.

William Betz, Attorney and Scrivener, office North Fifth near Penn street.

County Officers.

Prothonotary,	Benjamin Tyson. Esq.,
Clerk of Quarter Sessions,	Samuel Myers.
Clerk of Orphans' Court,	James Donagan, Esq.
Register,	Joel Ritter,
Recorder,	William Wunder,

Sheriff,	Henry Binkley,
Coroner,	William Stahle.

County Commissioners.—Michael Reifsnyder, George Weiler and John Long. Clerk—John Y. Cunius.

County Treasurer—Peter Nagle, Esq.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND SCRIVENERS.

William Schoener, Esq.,	office.	North Fifth, near Penn st.
Charles Troxell, Esq.,	"	South Sixth, near Penn.
William A. Wells, Esq.	"	Cor. of Second & Franklin.

The borough of Reading elects four Justices of the [illegible]; but by the death of Henry Betz, Esq., who had held a justices commission for many years, one of the offices has become vacant.

CONSTABLES.—Jonathan Greth and William B. Yahn.

The number of SURVEYORS is four, viz; Matthias S. Richards, Esq., George Fox, Esq., William Lash and Thomas Baird.

The following list of all the persons who have filled the office of SHERIFF, in the county of Berks, since the formation of the county in 1752, together with the date of their coming into office, will not be without interest or usefulness. There may be some errors in the dates as given, previous to the year 1781; since that time, I believe them all to be accurate.

Benjamin Lightfoot,	1752	Phillip Kremer, *	1790
Henry Christ,	1761	Peter Frailey,	179[illegible]
Jacob Weaver,	1764	John Christ,	1796
Joseph Scull,	1766	Nicholas Dick,	1799
[illegible]	1769	John S[illegible]r,	180[illegible]
[illegible]	1771	[illegible]	18[illegible]
H. Vanderslice,	1775	George Marks,	1805
David Levan,	1777	Daniel Kerper, *	1811
Henry Haffa,	1779	Peter Aurand,	1814
Philip Kremer, *	1781	John Miller,	1817
Peter Filbert,	1784	Henry Betz,	18[illegible]
Jacob Bower,	1787	Daniel Kerper, *	18[illegible]

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* [illegible] are only persons twice elected to the office of Sheriff [illegible] formation of the [illegible] of 17[illegible]

John Bickel,	1826	George Fox,	1835
James Silliman,	1829	Henry Binkley,	1838
Henry Bowman,	1832		

The PHYSICIANS in the borough of Reading, with their address.

Isaac Hiester,	office,	West Penn, near 4th Street.
John P. Hiester,	"	N. Fifth, near Washington.
Diller Luther,	"	Penn. between Fourth and Fifth.
William Gries,	"	Corner of Fourth and Franklin.
John Otto,	"	Penn. between Fifth and Sixth.
H. H. Muhlenburg	"	Penn, near Fourth.
Jacob Marshall,	"	Penn. between Sixth and Seventh.
John Marshall,	"	Penn, between Sixth and Seventh.
A. H. Witman,	"	Fifth, between Penn and Franklin.
Andrew Lippe,	"	Penn, between Sixth and Seventh.
P. F. Nagle,	"	Penn, between Eighth and Ninth.
M. M. Ancona,	"	Fichthorn's Hotel, (residence, Fegersville, four miles East of Reading.)

DRUGGISTS AND APOTHECARIES.

George W. Oakley,	N. Fifth, near Washington.
Gerhart G. Bischoff,	E. Penn, bet. Sixth and Seventh.
Jacob Gauby,	E. Penn, between Fifth and Sixth.
Mrs. Sarah B. Morris	W. Penn, bet. Fourth and 5th.

CHAPTER V.

MERCHANTS AND TRADERS—MECHANICS—BUSINESS CARDS, &c.

The persons engaged in trade, like those in the learned professions, are pretty numerous. They may be classed as follows, in reference to the nature of their business. 5 Dry Goods stores, wholesale and retail. 9 Dry Goods, Grocery and Queensware stores. 6 Grocery, Liquor, and Queensware, wholesale and retail. 19 Grocery, Liquor, Queensware, Flour, Feed, &c.; which stores hold licenses.

8 Oyster Cellars. 2 Bolting Cellars. 4 Confectionary stores, which sell wholesale and retail. 6 do. retail. 4 Book and Stationery stores. 1 Book Bindery. 7 Shoe stores. 19 Flour, Feed, &c. 4 Hardware and Iron stores. 1 Store for the sale of Musical Instruments. 2 Feather stores. 3 Large Store Houses, nearly in the centre of the town, which do a large business by purchasing and dealing in all kinds of grain. 4 Store Houses, on the wharves at the Schuylkill canal. 5 Coal and Plaster Yards. 4 Wood Yards. The following items, though not properly coming under the head of *trade*, may as well be inserted here. 4 Livery Stables. 3 Drovers. 4 Farmers. 5 Vineyards. There is a Green and Hot house, deservedly favored by the public; and a Nursery. This last is a truly delightful spot. The air of seclusion which it possesses, the comforts of its shady walks and bowers, and its delicious fruit, make it the favourite summer resort of the citizens of Reading. It does infinite credit to its proprietors and projectors. Those who open to the community retreats like this, for the innocent and profitable enjoyment of a leisure hour, are surely entitled to the name of public benefactors. The nursery is in the north-western part of the borough, about one quarter of a mile from the compact part of the town.

Mechanical Trades.

11 Wool Hat Manufactories, which manufacture about 35,000 dozen hats annually. 8 Fine Hat do., which also do a large business. 5 Windsor Chair Manufactories. 1 Comb and 2 Brush, do. 1 Plane do. 3 Glue do. 1 Blacking and Varnish, do. 3 extensive Breweries, and 1 Distillery. 1 Extensive Stone Ware Manufactory. 1 Plaster Paris, do. 3 Jewellers. 9 Watch and Clock makers. 2 Fancy and Silk Dyers. 2 Blue Dyers. 4 Tanners. 1 White and Morocco Leather Manufacturer. 3 Curriers. 4 Saddlers. 3 Turners by hand. 1 do. by steam. 3 Gun Smiths. 2 Locksmiths. 7 Tinmen. 4 Coppersmiths. 7 Bakers. 26 Shoemakers. 8 Cabinet makers. 1 Mill-Wright. 6 Wheel-Wrights. 14 Butchers. 5 Tallow Chandlers. 1 Coffee-mill Manufacturer. 1 Extensive Rope Manufactory. 1 Razor and Scissors grinder.

30 House Carpenters. 3 Plasterers. 7 House Painters. 2 Sign Painters. 1 Venetian Blind Manufacturer—B. Todd. 6 Coachmakers. 3 Coach Painters. 6 Coach Trimmers. 2 Silver Platers. 2 Spring, Coach, and Blacksmiths. 14 Coach and Blacksmiths. 3 Stone Masons. 5 Stone Cutters. [illegible] Bricklayers. 9 Brick Kilns; which made the last season, 2,777,[illegible] brick. 1 Lime Kiln. 31 Tailors. 5 Slop Shops. 15 Coverlet and Carpet Weavers. 1 Weaver's Reed Manufacturer. [illegible] Milliners and Mantua makers. 24 Mantua makers 4 Dentists and Barbers. 6 Barbers. 3 Boat builders. 1 Pump maker. 3 Plumbers. 3 Extensive Lumber Yards. 1 Horse Farrier. 1 White Sweep. 4 Tobacconists and Segar Manufacturers. 2 Cedar Coopers.

Business Cards.

J. & D. F[illegible], Tobacconists, in Penn, between 4th and 5th streets, occupy, in their business, a building 40 by 60 feet square. Have about 40 hands in constant employ. They purchase annually, about 2[illegible],000 lbs. Tobacco, out of which they manufacture 1,000,000 segars; 50,000 lbs. of smoking Tobacco, and [illegible],000 lbs. for chewing. The remainder they [illegible]. Furnish every article in the tobacco line, as cheap as in Philadelphia.

[illegible] Eng[illegible], Cedar Cooper, in Penn, between 7th and 8th streets, keeps at all times on hand, a general assortment of Cedar Ware, and will execute orders at the shortest notice.

[illegible], Manufacturer of *Rolling Screens* for Mills, and all kinds of [illegible] wire; and also, House Painter—4th street, between Penn and Franklin. Executes orders in the line of his business, on short notice.

[illegible], French Burr Millstone Manufacturer, 5th street, between Chestnut and Spruce. Has on hand a [illegible] of the best quality, and is ready to execute all orders in his line, at the shortest notice; will warrant his work [illegible].

[illegible] Stones, [illegible]. Warranted, and at reduced prices.

[illegible] Stores, [illegible] New York [illegible] Wines, Liquors and [illegible] by the [illegible]. A liberal discount to those who buy [illegible] again.

J. & C. M. Pearson, Dry Good Merchants, West Penn street, between 4th and 5th.

W. & A. H. Raiguel, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Dry Goods. East Penn street, near 5th. *Sign of the Golden Ball.*

John Green, Wholesale and Retail Grocery and Liquor Store. East Penn, near 6th street.

Isaac M. Stelle, Ladies Shoe Manufacturer. North 5th st., No. 14.

Henry Miller, Cabinet Maker. North 5th, between Penn and Washington streets.

P. K. & H. L. Miller, Wholesale and Retail Confectionary store. West Penn, near 5th street.

Amos B. Yeager, Confectioner. Fifth, between Penn and Washington.

P. J. H. Griesemer, Tailor. Fifth, between Chestnut and Franklin.

E. & M. Wanner, Fashionable Tailors. East Penn, between Fifth and Sixth streets, North side.

John Shaffer, Tailor. Fourth street, between Franklin and Chestnut.

Frederick Lauer, Extensive Brewery. Chestnut street, between Second and Third.

Augar Manufacturing Establishment, just put in operation by Messrs. *Rankin & Phillips.*—At present employs ten hands. The machinery is propelled by steam. Front street, between Penn and Franklin.

W. & J. H. Keim, Dealers in Hard Ware, Iron, Steel, Rifle Barrels, Paints, Oils, &c. North Fifth street, opposite the Jail.

Jacob Schærner, Portrait and Miniature Painter. North-west corner of Penn and Fifth streets.

John Bain, Comb Manufacturer. W. Penn, between Fourth and Fifth streets, South side.

Helms & Sager, Brush Manufacturers. W. Penn, between Third and Fourth streets.

N. B. *All kinds of Brushes made to order.*

George Newkirk, Tailor. W. Penn, between Third and Fourth streets.

[illegible] & [illegible], Boot Manufacturers. S. Fifth street.

[illegible], [illegible]. Penn street, between Fifth and Sixth.

John K. [illegible], corner of Third and Penn streets. Wholesale and Retail dealer in Dry Goods, Grocery, Glass and Queensware.

John H. [illegible], Tailor and vender of ready made Clothing. Penn street, between Third and Fourth.

[illegible], Boot and Shoemaker. Penn street, between [illegible].

[illegible], Hat Manufacturers. Have constantly [illegible] Hats and Caps. Third door from the corner of Penn and [illegible] streets.

[illegible].—All kinds of Job Printing, such as Blanks, [illegible] Hand-bills, [illegible] at the Office [illegible]

Also, a large assortment of School Books.

PIANO FORTES.

The subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public [illegible] and without mechanism [illegible] and which he will sell [illegible] either in New York or Philadelphia.—Also, just received a new musical instrument, called *[illegible] Piccolo*.

The public is most earnestly and respectfully invited to call and examine the above instrument, as it is an entire new invention, and considered superior in all respects, to the Piano Forte.

He has also constantly on hand, a great variety of Musical Instruments of every description, such as Violins, Flutes, Clarionets, Trumpets, French Horns, Trombones, &c. &c. all of which he will sell very low.

CHARLES L. [illegible], Importer.

Second door from the corner of Penn and Sixth streets

KEIM & MILLER.

Wholesale and retail Hardware Store, corner of Penn and Third Street, Reading. Have constantly on hand a large and general assortment of Hardware, Cutlery, Nails, Spikes, Rifle Barrels, Guns and Pistols, Carpenters' tools, Black-Smiths' Tools, Castings, Hollow and Cedar Ware, Lamps, Looking Glasses and Glassware generally; Coach Lamps, Bands, handles and Trimmings of every description,—Paints, Oil, Glass and Varnish; Dye Stuffs; all kinds of House-keeping articles, and Agricultural implements. With a full assortment of superior rolled Iron, from ¼ to 2 inches, Rounds Flats and Squares of every size. Also—a large assortment of Hammered Iron, all warranted good.—Cast, Shear, German, English, and American Steels, &c. &c.—The above articles will be sold at the lowest prices, and orders from any part of the county promptly filled.

THE READING GAZETTE,

A Family Newspaper, neutral in politics, devoted to News, Agriculture and General Literature; Containing Domestic and Foreign Intelligence, Congressional and State Legislative News, Poetry, Tales, Biographical, [illegible] and Miscellaneous Sketches, Agricultural Pieces, Hints in Rural and Domestic Economy, a Review of the Reading, Philadelphia and other Markets; a *Bank Note List*, exhibiting the solvency of all our Banking Institutions, and the current value of their issues, and a *Counterfeit Detector*, giving a free and explicit description of all Counterfeits: is published every Saturday morning on a sheet of the largest size, at Two Dollars per annum in advance.

THE READING TRANSCRIPT,

AND GENERAL ADVERTISER, (also a neutral paper,) will be printed on a medium sheet, and contain matter of interest to the farmer, mechanic, and business man. It will also contain weekly reviews of the Markets, a Bank Note List and a Counterfeit Detector.—*Terms only $1 per annum in advance.*

☞ *Advertisements* will be conspicuously inserted in the Gazette *and* Transcript at $1 50 per square for the first three times, and 37½ cents for every subsequent insertion; they will be inserted in the *Gazette or* Transcript at the usual rates of $1 for the first three, and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion. A liberal deduction will be made to those who advertise by the year. Subscriptions and advertisements are respectfully solicited by

KNABB & BOYER,
West Market Square, opposite the Post Office.

KEIM & STICHTER.

Hardware and Ironmongers, Opposite the Old Court House, Reading, Pa.—Have always on hand an extensive assortment of *Sheffield, Birmingham* and *American* goods, which they can sell to dealers as low as they can be purchased in the cities, viz.

Building Materials, viz :—Locks—till, cupboard, and drawer. Large brass knobs and American door bolts; round and shutter; Butts and screws; Hinges of all sorts: Glass—Boston, Crown, Baltimore and other approved make; Oil, white Lead and Paints, cast and wrought Nails, and all other articles necessary for buildings.

Varnish.—Copal, Black and Japan, and Turpentine.

Tar, Oakum, Pitch.

Wagon-boxes, English and American.

Steels.—Cast, Shear, German, English and American blister and crowly Steel; square, octagon, round and flat.

Iron.—Bar, square, round, Plough, Horse-shoe, Wagon-tree, Gun-iron, and all other kinds of Iron, embracing Russian and American Nail rods, Sheet iron.

K. & S. have made arrangements by which they can furnish all kinds of iron as low as it can be procured at Forges or Rolling-mills.

Smith Tools.—viz: Bellows, Anvils, Vices, and Screw-plates of the most approved make.

Castings.—viz: Mould-boards, Mill-gudgeons, Forge-hammers and Anvils, Celler-grates, Windmill-wheels, Hollow-ware, Cider-mills, &c. &c.

Dye Stuffs.—viz: Bengal and Spanish Indigo, Log and Red Wood, Fustic, Nicaragua and Camwood; Turmiric, Oil and Blue Vitriol Crude, Pot-ash, Pearl-ash and Salæratus, Allum, Arnotto, &c. &c.

Saddlery.—viz: Saddle-trees, Stirrups, Bridle-bits, all sorts of Buckles, Mountings, Hames, &c. &c.

Coach Trimmings.—Viz: pat. Axles, pat. Leather, Laces, and Fringe, Coach-Lamps, Coach Steps and Handles, Hub-bands, concave and plain—brass and silver, Moss, &c. &c.

Planes.—Jointer, Fore, Jack, Smoothing, and all other kinds.

Edge Tools, of every description and of the most approved makes.

Guns and Pistols.—K. & S. have an extensive Rifle and Gun manufactory, and can furnish these articles at the lowest

rate. Orders can be forwarded to them from any part of the country, with references, and they shall be promptly [illegible].

Looking Glasses.—viz: Pine, Flutes, Sconce Frame, Swing with [illegible] and drawers, Pier Tables, [illegible], Mahogany [illegible]. *Gilt [illegible]*—viz: [illegible] Gilt, Gilt [illegible] Frames, Gilt [illegible] a complete assortment.

[illegible]—viz: Rocking Tubs, [illegible], Wash-Tubs, [illegible] Painted Buckets, [illegible] &c.

[illegible]—viz: [illegible], Dripping-pans, [illegible], Ladles, [illegible] Table Irons [illegible], [illegible] Lamps, [illegible] Jamb and [illegible], Coffee mills, Bellows, [illegible] and all [illegible] for house keeping.

Also—Plaster of Paris, Nova Scotia Tin plate, Wire, Zinc, Lead, Block tin, Lead pipe, and a large assortment of other articles.

BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE.

Knabb & Boy[illegible], Editors and Proprietors of the Reading Gazette and Transcript, having [illegible] the newest and most fashionable materials for [illegible] the Type Foundries at Philadelphia and New York, [illegible] with the experience they have had in every branch [illegible] of Printing, to undertake all orders [illegible] they will execute [illegible] as [illegible] they can be [illegible].

The following are among the [illegible] demands (in their line of business) [illegible] agricultural and business community, which they are prepared to furnish at the shortest notice, viz:

Books,
Pamphlets,
Blanks,
Circulars,
Hand-bills,
Show-bills,
Cards,
Labels,
Hat-Tips,
Court Briefs,
Bills of Lading,
Way-bills,
Receipts,
Certificates,
Bills of Freight,
Funeral Notices,
Invitation Cards,
Tickets,

Bank Checks and Printing in Colors, Bronze and Gold.

They respectfully invite the attention of the public to the above advertisement, and solicit a liberal share of patronage.

George Getz, Bookseller and Stationer. Corner of Penn and Fourth streets.

Henry Frey, Wholesale and Retail Boot and Shoe Manufacturer. Fifth, between Penn and Washington, opposite the State House.

John S. Oliver, Clock and Watchmaker. Fifth, between Penn and Franklin.

George Heller. Jeweller and Silversmith. Penn, between Fifth and Sixth.

Joseph Klopp. Coach Manufacturer. West Penn street, opposite the Plough and Harrow Tavern. Keeps on hand and has constantly for sale, a number of Coaches, Gigs, Buggies, &c., which he will dispose of on the lowest terms.

Frederick Fox, Chair Manufacturer. Penn, between Sixth and Seventh. Keeps on hand a large assortment of Chairs, which he will dispose of on the most reasonable terms.

Gottlieb Ch. Nemert, Clock and Watchmaker, Jeweller and Silver-smith, and Fire-gilder. Fifth, between Penn and Washington.

CHAPTER VI.

LIST OF PUBLIC HOTELS AND INNS, STREETS, BRIDGES AND MARKETS.

The number of Hotels and Taverns is thirty-two. The following are north of Penn street:

Daniel Herr's Hotel and Stage Office. Penn, between Fourth and Fifth streets.

Jacob Dornahaur. Pennsylvania Farmer. Penn, between Fourth and Fifth.

Peter Shenfelder. Borough Hotel. Penn, near Fifth.

Daniel Fichthorn. Sign of the Bald Eagle. Penn, between Fifth and Sixth.

Jacob S. Ebling. Sign of Gen. Washington. Penn, near Sixth.

John Mellon. Green Tree Tavern, N. West corner of Penn and Sixth. This is the oldest tavern standing in the borough.

Jonathan Greth. White Horse. N. West corner of Penn and Seventh.

John Miller. Rail Road Hotel. N. East corner of Penn and Seventh.

Mrs. Beitinger. William Tell Inn. (After the first of April next the sign will be the Bull's Head, kept by David D. Weiser.) Penn, between Seventh and Eighth.

Philip Orth. Cross Keys. Penn, between Eighth and Ninth.

George B. Sterling. Mechanics' Hotel. N. East corner of Washington and Eighth.

Jacob D. Barnet. Eagle Hotel. S. East corner of Fifth and Washington. This is one of the most ancient taverns.

John Reifsnyder. Bald Eagle. Fifth, between Washington and Walnut.

Samuel Beard. Farmers' Hotel. N. West corner of Fifth and Washington.

Mrs. Levan. White Horse. Fifth, between Washington and Walnut.

John Kerlin. White Swan. Corner of Penn and Water streets.

South of Penn street are the following:

Henry Rheinhart. Washington Hotel. Corner of Penn and Water.

Michael H. Nunnemacher. Plough and Harrow. Penn, near Third.

George Gernant. Golden Swan. S. West corner of Penn and Fourth.

Daniel Finney. Mansion House. S. East corner of Penn and Fifth.

Abraham Behm. Capt. Lawrence. Corner of Penn and Sixth.

William Rapp. Butchers' Inn. S. East corner of Penn Eighth.

Abraham Roland. Drovers' Inn. Penn, between Eighth and Ninth.

John H. Nagle. Mount Airy Hotel.

[illegible] *S. Kerper.* Infantry. Franklin, between Seventh and Eighth.—*Very ancient.*

[illegible] *Weidy.* Eagle Hotel and Stage Office. Fifth, between Penn and Franklin.

Peter St[illegible]. Bald Eagle. Corner of Fifth and Franklin.

— [illegible]

[illegible] *Davis.* Washington House. Seventh, opposite the Depot.

Daniel Yerger. Gen. Harrison. Fifth, between Penn and Franklin.

Daniel Keehn. Napoleon Bonaparte. Corner of Seventh and Spruce.

Edward [illegible]. Mechanics' and Boatmens' Hotel. Long Island.

John [illegible]. Horse and Boat. Corner of Third and Bingaman.

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STREETS AND ALLEYS.

The streets, with the exception of Water street, are perfectly straight, and cross each other at right angles. Those running North and South, are—*Water street*, (following the bank of the river, and extending through the Borough)—*Front street*—(the first of those following a straight course)—*Second street*. *Third*, *Fourth*, and so up to *Twelfth*, near the foot of Penn's Mount and about one mile from the river.

Those running East and West, beginning on the North, are *Oak*, *Walnut*, *Washington*, *Penn*, *Franklin*, *Chestnut*, *Spruce*, [illegible] and [illegible] streets.

Liberty and *Billiard Alleys*, extend through the borough East and West on each side of Penn street, at the distance of half a square. There are also alleys between all the squares, running *North* and *South*; commencing at Liberty and Billiard Alleys, and extending to the limits of the borough.

Penn Street, from the Schuylkill to Fourth, is 80 feet in width; from thence to the Farmers' Bank, 160; from thence to

Keim & Stichter's Store, 200; from thence to Sixth street, 160; and from thence to the foot of Penn's Mount, 80 feet in width. North and South Fifth street is 80 feet wide. All the other streets are 60 feet, and the alleys 20 feet in width. "Most of the streets are regularly graded, and covered with white gravel, intermixed with a small portion of potters' or fire clay, to the depth of about eighteen inches. This gravel soon becomes compacted and cemented firmly together, and forms a very smooth, hard and durable road, superior to any paved or macadamized street.

From the eastern boundary of Reading, to its western on the Schuylkill, there is a fall of more than one hundred feet; and the streets running north and south, also have a considerable fall. The water therefore runs off freely, and the streets are easily kept dry and clean. The pavements in Reading are very broad and handsome, being from 13 to 22 feet in width; and those in the principal streets, are generally well made and kept in good order.

BRIDGES.

The Reading and Harrisburg Bridge, crosses the river Schuylkill at the foot of Penn street. It has three arches, each 200 feet span—whole length, 600 feet. It was built in 1816. The strength of this bridge is sufficiently proved by its having stood firm through three freshets, each of which swept away great numbers of its cotemporaries.

The Reading and Lancaster Bridge, at the foot of Bingaman street, is composed of two arches, and is 352 feet long. It was built in 1831. In January 1838, a portion of it was swept off by the freshet, and rebuilt in the summer following.

MARKETS.

The market houses stand in the middle of Market Square, but are not very highly ornamental to that part of the town. Their mouldy and ruinous condition may make them objects of interest to persons of a romantic turn, but by the citizens in general, I believe, they are regarded rather as nuisances.

Public markets for the sale of provisions, are held every Wednesday and Saturday morning, and continue, from the first day of April to the first day of October, until eight o'clock;

and from the first day of October to the first day of April, until nine o'clock. The stalls of the East Market House are rented by the Clerk of the market, to butchers, and the avails paid over to the Treasurer of the borough.

The Clerk of the Market exercises a general supervision over the markets, regulating the weights and measures, and taking cognizance of offences against the rules and regulations in regard to them. It is also made his duty to adjust according to the Borough Standard, the weights and measures to be used by the storekeepers, victuallers, and all other dealers within the borough of Reading, and to stamp the same with the letters B. R.

The West Market House is occupied by farmers for the sale of their own produce free of rent, but under the regulation and supervision of the Clerk of the Market, who, by a special ordinance of the Borough, is directed to keep a sharp eye on all balls of *butter* purporting to be a pound weight, which shall be offered for sale in the market, or elsewhere in the borough of Reading. If found "too light, (in weight, not color,) they are declared to be forfeited.—An ordinance which shall reach the peccadillos of the milk sellers, is yet a desideratum. The subject is full of difficulty; still it is recommended to the consideration of the Town Council. Some kind of chemical apparatus perhaps——But I am wandering. The west or vegetable market is constantly attended by a large number of persons, male and female, some of whom come a distance of ten or twelve miles, bringing a plentiful supply of all kinds of country produce.

"Up in the morning early!"

is the song of the blithe country women to the sleepy citizens of Reading, as they make their midnight entry into town, well prepared and eager for the strife of trade.

[illegible]

[illegible] many a reluctant riser, as he staggers out of bed and feels for his nether garments;—submitting however, to the unavoidable interruption of his rest, as his only chance of [illegible] in the market [illegible] going to market for.

CHAPTER VI.

POST OFFICE—ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE MAILS, CARS, AND STAGES—PRINTING OFFICES—BANKS—PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

THE Post Office was established at Reading in 1793, and Gotleib Yungmann was appointed as the first Post Master.—Previous to this time, letters were conveyed from Reading to Philadelphia and other important places, by private individuals upon their own account.

In 1789, a two horse coach was started by Mr. Martin Hausman, to run weekly for the conveyance of passengers and letters between Reading and Philadelphia. It made its passage *through in two days.* Fare $2. Letter carriage—3d. In 1790, the establishment was transferred to Alexander Eisenbeis. Mr. Eisenbeis sold out in 1791, to William Coleman, who, soon after, started a coach also to Harrisburg, which performed its trips in the same time, and at the same rates of fare and postage as that to Philadelphia.

At the close of the year 1800, the mail was carried from here to Sunbury once a week, on horse-back;—to Lancaster, and Easton, once a week, in a private two horse carriage.—But it is time to speak of the present.

The Post Office is kept in W. Penn St. near 4th.—*Post Master*, SAMUEL RITTER.

MAILS,—*Philadelphia* and Easton Mail, arrives daily by 10 o'clock A. M., and departs at 1. P. M.

Harrisburg and Western Mail, arrives daily by 12. A. M., and departs at 11. A. M. (or sooner, if the Phila. Mail arrives.)

Pottsville, Northumberland, &c. Mail, arrives daily by 12½ P. M., departs at 10. A. M.

Easton Mail, arrives every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, by 5. P. M., and departs every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 6. A. M.

Lancaster Mail, arrives every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, by 5. P. M., and departs every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 9. A. M.

Pine Grove Mail, arrives every Monday and Thursday, by 3 P. M., and departs every Sunday and Wednesday at 7. A. M.

The above mails are conveyed by Stage. The following, by Horse.

Boyerstown, &c. Mail, arrives every Thursday by 12. M. and departs every Wednesday, at 5. A. M.

Sumnytown Mail, arrives every Thursday by 5. P. M., departs every Wednesday at 6. A. M.

Blue Ball Mail, arrives every Wednesday by 8. P. M., departs every Wednesday at 10. A. M.

Phoenixville via Morgantown, &c., arrives every Tuesday by 6. P. M., departs every Monday at 5. A. M.

Do. via Brower's, arrives every Saturday by 6. P. M.—departs every Friday at 8. A. M.

(*Baumstown* and *Douglassville* are *daily*, same as Philadelphia Mail.)

The *Philadelphia Cars*, by the present arrangement, leave Reading every day at 1½ P. M., and arrive from Phila. about 11. A. M.

Besides the mail, there are two daily Stages to Pottsville, which leave Reading on the arrival of the cars, and arrive at 12. M.

An opposition line of Stages to Harrisburg has been recently started. Stage departs daily on the arrival of the cars, and arrives from Harrisburg at 12. M.

PRINTING OFFICES.

The first Newspaper published in Reading, called the *Neue Unpartheyische Zeitung* (Neutral Times) was issued February 18th, 1789, by Messrs. Johnston, Barton and Yungmann.

There are now seven weekly papers printed in the Borough, which, with their respective publishers are as follows.

John S. Richards, Berks and Schuylkill Journal, Office W. Penn St. between 4th and 5th, North side.—This is the oldest English newspaper printed in the Borough. The first number appeared June 17th, 1816, and it has been published unremittedly from that date.

Knabb and Boyer, Reading Gazette, Office West Penn St. between 4th and 5th. South side.

Samuel Myers, Democratic Press, North 6th St. opposite the new Court House.

R. Wilson Albright, Jefferson Democrat, West Penn, near Fifth street.

The following are published in German.

Ritter and Kessler, Reading Adler, West Penn, near 4th St. The Adler was first issued by Jacob Snyder & Co., the 17th January, 1797.

A. Puwelle, Liberale Beobachter, South 6th, near Penn St.

William Schoener Esq. Alt Berks, North 5th, near Penn St

BANKS.

The Office of Discount and Deposit, was established in Reading, in 1808.—The Banking House of this institution is situated in West Penn, near 5th st.

The Farmer's Bank of Reading, was incorporated in 1814. Their Banking House is situated in West Penn, near 5th st., directly opposite the office of Discount and Deposit.

The Berks County Bank, was incorporated in 1836.—Their Banking-house is situated in East Penn, near 5th st.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The *Market Houses*, which, of all the *public buildings*, have the most indisputable title to that name, have been already noticed.

The Old Court House [illegible] years ago, [illegible]—"The old [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible] that [illegible] view, which might otherwise be enjoyed of the Borough from east to west, through Penn street, from the foot of Penn's Mount to the Schuylkill; and from its northern to its southern extremities, through Callowhill or Fifth street.—It is probable that this unsightly edifice will be demolished in the course of

the approaching summer, or as soon as the new Court-House is completed."—The new Court-house has been completed for a considerable time, but this "unsightly edifice" is still remaining. The Commissioners seem to have forgotten it.

The *Jail* was erected in 1770. It is a large two story stone building, and is very conspicuously situated at the corner of Fifth and Washington streets. It has a most uncouth appearance, and is a serious injury to the neighborhood in which it stands. It is hoped that a new Jail may be shortly erected in some retired situation in the vicinity of the new Court-house, and North Fifth street cleared of this grievous nuisance.

The Public Offices, or State-house, as it is generally called, was erected in 1793. It is a plain brick building, two stories high, and 100 feet front by 29 feet deep, situated at the corner of Penn and Fifth streets. The first story is divided into four rooms, and was until recently, occupied by the County Offices. They have been lately removed however to the new Court House, and the rooms are now rented as private offices. The second story is divided into two rooms, one of which is rented to the Freemasons, and the other kept for public use.

The Public Buildings of Reading had been for many years, both in number and appearance, wholly unworthy the size and general beauty of the town. But the new Court-house shows that the people of Berks County, if slow to undertake the work of improvement, are thorough in its execution.

This building was founded in 1838, and completed in December, 1840; though the interior was sufficiently finished for the reception of the Courts at [illegible] August Term preceding. It stands [illegible] plot in North Sixth street between Penn [illegible], containing 120 feet front by 230 feet deep, and is enclosed with a beautiful iron railing.

The following description of this splendid work of art, is taken from the Democratic Press of July 11, 1840. It is almost too long to transcribe; but the great interest of the subject, and the elegance and artist-like style of the description itself, are sufficient guaranty of its acceptableness to the reader—and render it a grateful office thus to redeem it from oblivion.

"This beautiful structure was designed by T. U. Walter, Architect of Philadelphia, and erected according to his directions. It is composed in the Ionic order of Grecian Architecture, and its dimensions are sixty two feet front, one hundred and eighteen feet deep, and one hundred and forty six feet to the top of the cupola.

"The front consists of a rusticated base [illegible] feet in height, [illegible] ed by an entablature and pediment, the whole of which is constructed of chissel-dressed red sand stone executed in a very superior manner. The bases of the columns, the capitals, and the cornice are particularly worthy of notice as beautiful specimens of workmanship;—the graceful and glowing lines of the volutes or scrolls, on which depend so much of the charm of the Grecian Ionic Capital, have been most perfectly developed; and the [illegible], correctness and spirited finish exhibited in all the [illegible] every other prominent feature of the [illegible] structure an object well calculated to [illegible] taste.

"The building is surmounted by a cupola of twenty-four feet [illegible] object in [illegible] it forms a sort of [illegible] structure, and con- [illegible] inches in diameter, and eighteen [illegible] finished with a frieze and cornice, surmounted by a [illegible] formed dome, and crowned with a beautiful colossal statue of the Goddess of Liberty,* sculptured by the younger Rush;—this statue is as perfect in execution as it is graceful and spirited

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*Cost of Statue. $[illegible]3,50.

in design, exhibiting a degree of taste and skill in the artist of the highest order.

"The interior of the building embraces a basement story of eleven feet in height, a principal story of eighteen feet, and an attic of thirteen feet six inches.

"The basement contains six large rooms ranged on each side of a spacious hall running through the building, all of which have fire-proofs attached to them, constructed with a solidity and strength which secures our public records against the possibility of accident and depredation;—these rooms are appropriated to the use of the Recorder of Deeds, the County Commissioners, the Prothonotary, the Clerk of the Orphan's Court, Clerk of Quarter Sessions, the Register of Wills and the County Treasurer. There are also two large vaults under the portico.

"The principal story is chiefly appropriated to the Court room, the dimensions of which are fifty-six feet by seventy-five in the clear.—An alcove or recess is formed opposite to the door of entrance, of twenty-six feet in width by twelve feet in depth, which is occupied by the Judge's bench, the whole arrangement of which presents a model of beauty and boldness in Architecture which gives character and dignity to the room.—An Architrave extends across the recess, resting at the ends on Greek antae, and supported intermediately by four Ionic columns of the most graceful proportions.—The bench is placed in front of the columns, and affords a pleasing combination of lines and forms enriched with sculptural mouldings and choragic wreaths; it measures fourteen feet three inches in length, and the platform on which it stands is elevated three feet six inches above the floor of the room.

"The south side of the alcove opens into a retiring room of nine by fifteen feet, and the north into a room containing a private staircase, leading into the basement.

"The portion of the court room appropriated to the spectators is constructed with an inclination so as to afford a good view from the remotest seats, and the arrangement of the whole room is ample and complete, not only for the convenience and

comfort of the Judges, the Lawyers, and the Jurors, but also for a large audience; while, at the same time, its architectural character and magnitude, render it a most agreeable object of taste.

"The attic story is divided into eight rooms, varying in size, from sixteen by twenty-three, to twenty-three by twenty-three feet, one of which is appropriated to the Grand Jury, three Common or Traverse Jury rooms, two Arbitration rooms, one Witness room adjoining that of the Grand Jury, and one room for the Town Council.

"The highest meed of praise is certainly due to the commissioners,* for the good taste they have evinced in providing so beautiful and convenient a structure to embellish our county, render our records secure, and accommodate our courts, as well as for their firmness and fearlessness in encountering the difficulties and vexations which naturally attend the accomplishment of such an undertaking.

"To the superintendents, and master carpenters, Messrs. Joseph and William Henry, belongs also the most unqualified commendation for the masterly manner in which they have conducted the execution of the whole work; as the plans of an Architect were probably never carried out with greater skill and correctness than were these of Mr. Walter by these young natives of our own county.

"Great praise is also due to Messrs. John and George Malsberger, the master Bricklayers; to Mr. Christian Greiner, who furnished the sand stone for the front, and to Mr. F. H. Witman, for the beautiful and permanent manner in which he executed the painting of the building.

The whole cost of the Court-house was $58,346 42. This sum was applied and expended during the progress of its construction, as follows—

In 1838 - - - - - -	$19,546 57½
1839 - - - - - -	16,115 [illegible]
1840 - - - - - -	22,184 85
Total	$58,346 42

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* John Seyfert, David Katz, Michael Reifsnyder.

The foregoing account includes the expenses of the Court Crier's House, the furniture of the Offices, Jury Rooms, Court Room, and Arbitration and Council Rooms.

CHAPTER VIII.

MANUFACTURES AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS. IRON WORKS—CANALS AND RAIL ROADS—WATER COMPANY—MINERAL SPRING.

SOME idea of the ordinary business of Reading, may be gathered from the account of trades and pursuits, given in a preceding chapter. But this Borough is of late assuming an importance from its manufactures and public improvements, which demands for these a seperate notice.

No manufacturing was done in Reading previous to the year 1836, except in the articles of boots and shoes, hats and stoneware. Since that period the Iron and Nail Works of Messrs. Keim, Whitaker & Co., the Iron & Brass Foundry of Messrs. Darling, Tayler & Co., the Locomotive Engine Manufactory and Machine shop of D. H. Dotterer & Co., the Stationary Steam Engine and Rifle Barrel Manufactory of William G. Tayler, the Foundry of Adam Johnston, the Auger Manufactory of Messrs. Rankin & Philips, the Steam Saw Mill and Chopping Mill of Messrs. Ferry and Frill, and three shops for manufacturing Horse Power Threshing Machines, Corn Shellers, Patent Pumps, [illegible] Hay Rakes, Cultivators, &c., have [illegible].

There are also two [illegible] in the borough. The exten[illegible] [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Smith, is a large brick building, four stories high. [illegible]

The following [illegible] of the [illegible] Iron Works [illegible]

The "*Reading Nail and Iron Works*," owned by Messrs. Keim, Whitaker & Co., are situated in the southern part of the borough, near the base of the Neversink Mountain, and between the river Schuylkill and the Philadelphia and Reading Rail Road.

"The Rolling Mill is a heavy frame building, 130 by 165 feet, having seven heating furnaces, four of which are for puddling, and three for heating iron. It is divided into three distinct mills, viz: one for rolling bar iron, round, square and flat, and also nail plates and hand iron. One for puddled iron, which is also fitted for sheet and boiler iron, and one for small round, square, and scroll iron.

"The Puddle Mill also has a squeezer attached, for forming the balls or loops coming from the furnace, into a convenient shape for entering the large rolls. There are also five pair of shears for different purposes, some of which are sufficiently strong to cut billets of iron of two inches square with ease.

"Immediately adjoining the Rolling Mill, and connected therewith, is the nail factory—a substantial and massive brick building, 75 by 50 feet, 2 stories high, having on its principal floor thirty machines for cutting nails; say from 2d up to seven inch spikes. The basement story contains the drums and belts that drive the machinery above, and also the grind-stone, and is used as a store-house for nails, of which it is capable of storing several thousand kegs.

"The whole of the machinery is driven by a steam engine of 150 horse power—high pressure—built in 1835, by McClurg, Wade & Co. of Pittsburgh.

"This establishment employs about one hundred hands—consumes annually from 40 to 50 thousand bushels of bituminous, and upwards of three thousand tons of Anthracite Coal.—and turns out daily from 5 to 6 tons of nails, and ten tons of merchant iron, ready for market.

"Besides the principal buildings already mentioned, there are several others in the immediate vicinity, and belonging to the

concern—viz. a blacksmith shop with two fires; a cooper shop, where from 8 to 10 coopers are constantly employed in making nail-kegs—also a counting-house, store-houses for iron, tool-houses, &c. &c.

“*The Locomotive and Steam Engine Manufactory*, of D. H. Dotterer & Co., is situated immediately on the Canal, and a short [illegible] above the Lancaster Bridge. The Machine Shop is a brick building, 115 by 52 feet, [illegible] a [illegible] high. The Smith Shop and Boiler House is 95 by 41 [illegible] high. The Stationary Engine [illegible] for propelling the machinery, [illegible] Foundry of Messrs. [illegible] & Co. D. H. Dotterer & Co. have built, in the last year, 6 first class Locomotive Engines, and re-built 3. In the same time they have built [illegible] Stationary Engines, besides doing the work of a general machine shop. The buildings and machinery are sufficient to turn out 12 first class Locomotives a year, along with the other work. This establishment has been in successful operation about three years; and the average number of hands employed is 30 journeymen and 16 apprentices.

“Adjoining the above establishment is the *Iron and Brass Foundry* of Darling, Taylor & Co. The Iron Foundry is a brick building, 90 by 45 feet, and one story high, with a [illegible]. Bellows and Cupola House, 70 by 30 feet, part of which is two stories high. Connected with the Foundry is an Air Furnace of the largest class; building, [illegible] feet, [illegible] the air for which is supplied [illegible] Cylinders, constructed upon the [illegible] calculated [illegible] Forge Hammers, [illegible] number of hands employed is 16. The Brass Foundry and [illegible] Shop, is 100 by 25 feet, one and a half stories high, of brick. The Brass department is calculated to cast Brass [illegible] of every description, [illegible] sizes, equal in point of *tone*, to any cast in the U. States. The other

part of the building is occupied by two forge fires for the use of Foundry and Thrashing Machine shop, 50 by 30 feet, and 2 stories high; in which are built Horse Power and Thrashing Machines of the most improved construction, and all kinds of agricultural implements.—Number of hands employed—5 [illegible] men; and have manufactured for sale from 75 to 100 Machines the past season.

The above Foundry has been in operation about five years."

The Reading Stationary Steam Engine Manufactory of W. G. Taylor, is situated on Water near Penn street.

These works employ a large number of hands, and do a large and extensive business. They have constructed a great number of Engines of various power, which have uniformly proved of excellent quality. Boilers for locomotive and other engines are made here; and also Mill Gearing, Lathes, Drills, and a variety of other machinery. Connected with this establishment is a Rifle Barrel Manufactory, which turns out over 3000 barrels annually.

The New Foundry of Mr. Adam Johnston, was put in operation during the last year, and is situated at the corner of Chestnut and Eighth streets. The building is of brick, 25 by 59 feet, and at present employs eight hands. The Machine Shop is 26 by 36 feet. From the experience of Mr. Johnston, in the business, and his well known skill as a practical *moulder*, there is little doubt that this new establishment will thrive and prosper in business, and prove a valuable acquisition to the borough.

The extent to which manufactures have grown up in Reading within the last four or five years, and their success thus far, add confidence to the opinion, now very generally entertained, that this town possesses no ordinary advantages for manufacturing operations. As yet they are confined principally to some branch of the iron business; but cotton and other factories will probably soon be established. The borough already feels the benefits of this new interest, in the in-

crease of population and business which it has brought to the place; and it is pretty certain, that if Reading is destined to increase greatly in size or importance, it must be by the improvement of its natural advantages, and becoming an extensive manufacturing town.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The *Schuylkill Canal* commences at Port Carbon, in the coal region—passes through Reading, and terminates in Philadelphia. It is 108 miles long, with 117 lift locks, overcoming a fall of 610 feet.

The *Union Canal* commences at Middletown, on the Susquehanna—enters the Schuylkill at Reading, near the foot of Penn street, and continues inland along the river for about two miles below Reading, where it forms a junction with the Schuylkill Canal.

These canals are of the highest importance to Reading—the one affording a cheap and safe mode of transportation to Philadelphia and Pottsville, and the other connecting with the Pennsylvania Canal, at Middletown, opens a direct line of transportation to Pittsburg, and the far West.—The business furnished by them gives employment to a large number of our citizens; and the various improvements of bridges and buildings erected along and upon them, adds much to the appearance of that part of the borough through which they pass. The buildings belonging to the Schuylkill Canal Company, occupied by Mr. Samuel Griscom, are very elegant, and the large and beautiful gardens attached to them, are probably unequalled by any in the borough.

The *Philadelphia and Reading Rail Road* has been for some time in operation between Reading and Philadelphia, a distance of 58 miles. It is being continued on to Pottsville, and is nearly completed, and will shortly be in operation, as far as Port Clinton, where it connects with the Little Schuylkill Rail Road Company's Rail Road to their coal mines. From Pottsville to Philadelphia there will be no ascending grade, but a descent of nineteen inches to the mile. An extensive and ele-

gant Depot is erected at Reading. A fine specimen of art is exhibited in a cut, twenty-two and a half feet deep, for the passage of the Rail-road through the town, with five substantial bridges crossing the same. This cut was worked through in 1839, by Messrs. Graul and Henry, by whom also the Depot was erected in 1836.

Abstract of the business done on the above Rail Road, during the year ending December 31, 1840.

Whole number of passengers transported on the Road,	60,516
Equal to 33,225 over the whole length of the road.	
Whole amount of freight, including 38,385 bbls. flour,	16,850 tons.
Total receipts for freight and passengers,	$100,764 62

The *Reading Water Company*, first brought water into the borough, in 1822. Since that time, their works have been greatly improved and enlarged. The town is supplied with an excellent spring of water, led into a reservoir near the head of Penn street, from whence it is carried through the various streets, by means of iron pipe, an aggregate distance of between two or three miles, for the several sections of the inhabitants. This water is furnished to upwards of five hundred families: There are *eighteen* fire plugs, located at the most convenient points; and a large reservior has been lately made, and is kept constantly filled, as a resource in case of fire. The expenses of the Water Company, from the commencement of works up to April 1840, were $25,000; and the average nett income from the water rents amounts to $1,000 per annum.

The reader—if he has diligently read all that goes before—is no doubt satisfied that Reading possesses great advantages in a business point of view, and is, in verity, a thrifty, business-doing town. But have you no provision for pleasant relaxation for those whom business has made weary?—methinks I hear him ask,—perhaps growing a little weary himself:—no inviting retreat for health and spirit restoring recreation and amusement? We have—a variety of such;—places adapted to

the case not only of persons who are weary with much business, but of such also as are weary with none.

The *Nursery*, which has been noticed in another place, is one of the most charming resorts that taste and ingenuity could devise, for the comfort of those oppressed with the toil and heat of the Town. Here is realised all that the imagination is accustomed to picture as delightful in rural scenery.

Those who take delight in clambering over hills, and breathing the fresh mountain air, have the Neversink and Penn's Mount, with their winding and shady paths bordered with flowers, inviting them to this invigorating and wholesome enjoyment, and opening to their view a variety of scenery, rarely equalled in richness or beauty.

But the most common resort of our citizens for recreation and amusement, is the *Mineral Spring*. The *water* of the *fountain* which has given its name to the place, is not the principal object of attraction, nor is it made much account of at present, though said to possess excellent mineral qualities, and may, it is not unlikely, before many years, take its rank among the fashionable watering places of the country.—This romantic spot is situated about two miles to the east of the town. It is a narrow valley or ravine between high and steep hills, through which runs a fine stream of water. It is so completely hedged about with mountains, and well shaded with original forest trees, as to be almost entirely screened from the influence of the sun, and is ten or fifteen degrees cooler in summer than the open country around. The Hotel, and various works designed for the comfort and entertainment of visitors, are kept in excellent repair; and under the supervision of the present proprietor, Mr. John Coleman, present no ordinary attractions.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION. READING ACADEMY—FEMALE SEMINARY—PRIVATE, INFANT AND FREE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

THE people of Reading are doing much more for the educa-

tion of youth at the present than any former period. There seems to be a determination to place the all-important cause of education on a footing worthy of the wealth and size of the town. The direction of the various institutions of learning has been entrusted in efficient and faithful hands, whose efforts have met with such success, that the necessity which many of our citizens have heretofore felt of sending their children away from home to school, will, it is believed, no longer urge to that course.

Reading Academy.—This institution received its charter from the Legislature in 1778. In 1836, owing to bad management or want of p[illegible], it had become considerably involved in debt, and it was suffered to cease operation. It was revived in the spring of 1840, and has since sustained a deservedly high character. The course of instruction is extensive, embracing the ancient and modern Languages, Mathematics, and all the English branches usually taught in Academies and High Schools. This institution is under the charge of the Rev. J. R. G[illegible], Principal, assisted by Mr. W[illegible] H. B[illegible], Instructor in Latin and Greek, Mr. G. A. A. Wagner, Teacher of Modern Languages, and Dr. John P. H[illegible], Lecturer on Chemistry. [illegible] 61,—all young gentlemen, [illegible].

The Academy building is a two story brick edifice, 50 by 60 feet square. On the first floor are two school rooms, 23 by 33 feet each, and two recitation rooms, 16 by 19 feet. The second floor contains a Hall 17 by 35 feet—16 feet high and two rooms each [illegible] by 19 feet.—The front of the building is in imitation [illegible] supporting an entablature and [illegible]. The [illegible]. It was erected in 18[illegible], by Messrs. [illegible]hauser and Schreyden; and is situated in North Fo[illegible].

The [illegible] was incorporated in the spring of 18[illegible], [illegible] soon after. By the wise and liberal policy of the Trustees, a suitable pecuniary [illegible] was made in the spring of 18[illegible], for procuring the ser-

vices of the best of instructors; and accordingly the institution is in a very prosperous and flourishing condition, and has acquired a credit which is bringing to it many pupils from abroad. The Seminary is under the direction of Mr. A. W. [illegible], Principal, assisted by Mrs. M. [illegible]lemiss. The branches taught are English and French Languages and Literature, Botany, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, &c. &c. The number of pupils is [illegible]2.—The [illegible] is [illegible] in one of the rooms of the Academy, [illegible] can be erected.

The Female Seminary, and the Academy, receive each an appropriation of $500 from the State, on condition of their having a certain number of scholars, which both of them overrun.

Private Schools.—There are *nine* different private or select schools in the borough, at which a large number of youth are instructed. Several of these are in the charge of teachers who have long occupied their present situations, and sustain a high reputation in their profession.

There are three *infant* schools, which are also private—perhaps *of course.*

Public Schools.—The number of public or free schools at present in operation is *thirteen*; *five* of which, that is, three for males and two for females, are in the north district, or *ward*, as it is usually termed; and *eight* in the south district or ward, of which four are for males, and four for females.—The number of scholars entitled to the privilege of the free schools is about 2,060, considerably more than half of whom belong to the south ward. The number that received instruction in them the last year was 913. The number of scholars receiving instruction in all the schools and institutions of learning in Reading, during the last year, was 2,532. The School Tax raised in the north ward was $2,500; in the south ward, $2,600.—The School Directors are—for the North Ward, Samuel Myers, William Schoener, Benjamin Davis, John Roland, Geo. Graul, Jacob [illegible];—for the South Ward—Daniel [illegible], Wm. Darling, Jonathan Shearer, Milo H. Ferry, Edward Davis, John K. Wright.

[illegible]—One situated [illegible]. This is a two story [illegible] erected in 18[illegible].—One [illegible] between Third and Fourth. [illegible] feet, and erected in 18[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] These [illegible] with each of the following [illegible] the German Reformed [illegible]

CHAPTER X.

SOCIETIES, CHARITABLE AND LITERARY.—INCIDENTS.

It has been justly [illegible] for the number of its [illegible] society [illegible] her [illegible], some of which were of an absurd [illegible]. A [illegible] they were [illegible] more than an ephem[illegible]. The [illegible] all;—a [illegible] vived for a number of years; and a few [illegible].

[illegible] may find occasion to quote.—"[illegible] Reading," [illegible] Society [illegible] Society. [illegible] Club and the Tea Party jollificati[illegible] the Thespian Board. The [illegible] Union.—The [illegible] County B[illegible] Temperance, Colonization, Debating [illegible]s.

[illegible] defunct; and many more are in a very sickly condition. A few of them deserve more particular [illegible].

Masonic Fraternity.—The following account of this institution in Reading, was politely furnished by a gentleman who stands high in the Order. "The Masonic Order, was established in Reading as early as 1794, under a warrant from the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The late William Bell, Esq. had the honor of being its first presiding officer.—Lodge No. 62, has ever embraced in its members some of the most respectable persons of Reading, and the county of Berks. There are now eighty-eight active members of the Lodge, besides a number of honorary members.—Chapter No. 152, holds its warrant from the Right Worshipful Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania. This body is also in a very flourishing condition.—The members of the Order contemplate erecting a *Masonic Temple* for their greater convenience, and the ornament of the Borough."

The Garrick Association of Reading.—This Dramatic Association was formed [illegible] in operation with a good share of prosperity to the present time. They have a hall in the old academy building, neatly fitted up and furnished for their performances. The society numbers about twenty members—all young men of the borough of Reading, of very respectable families and good standing in society.

The Cabinet.—[illegible] was formed about three years ago. Its design is to promote research and diffuse information upon scientific subjects, through the medium of lectures by the members. A small, but well chosen, chemical and other apparatus, and a collection of minerals, were obtained; and the exertions of the association have been attended with interest and profit, to the members and others. Lectures are delivered regularly every Thursday evening during the fall and winter, and meetings for the transaction of business are held once a month during the remainder of the year. Several members have occasionally assisted in lecturing, but this duty has fallen principally upon Dr. J. P. Hiester, whose lectures and experiments upon chemistry have proved peculiarly interesting to the young, to whose interest and apprehension he has the happy faculty of explaining the most abstruse parts of the science.

William Penn Institute.—This association has been in existence several years under the name of the *Junior Association.* A short time since, the plan and constitution of the society were somewhat altered, and the present title adopted. It is composed principally of clerks in our stores, and young mechanics, and embraces a large number of young men, who are anxious for their own and each other's intellectual improvement. The debates of this society are held weekly in a convenient room, which they have elegantly furnished for their use, and [illegible] They [illegible] pre- [illegible] lectures, delivered by [illegible] of which are to be appropriated to [illegible] library of the Institution.

Mechanics' Institute.—This society was formed between one and two years ago, and is composed chiefly of mechanics and apprentices. Feeling the importance of mental cultivation to them as men and members of society, and acknowledging their deficiencies in this respect, they associated themselves with the view of promoting their mutual improvement. They are organized under an appropriate constitution and bye-laws, to which strict obedience is rendered. Debates, Lectures, Essays and Recitations are among their weekly exercises, and are conducted with a zeal and good feeling honorable to the members, and ensuring a high degree of success in the object for which they are associated. The formation of a library is embraced in the plan of this society.

Libraries in Reading.

There are three libraries in Reading, one German and two English.

The *German Library* contains a large number of well selected books, but is not at the present time open to the use of the public. It is [illegible] the library for the security of their money. How long this valuable collection of books will be suffered to remain in its present

precarious condition, or what disposition will finally be made of it, it is difficult to conjecture.

The *Reading Library*, is a large collection, containing many valuable and standard works. There are however entirely too many *novels*; and a large portion of the other works are rather ancient. These however are valuable, and if some of the trashy novels and romances were cleared from the shelves, and their places supplied with judiciously chosen modern works, this would become a most excellent library.

Franklin Library.—This library was formed to supply a want that had been for many years seriously felt in Reading, of some collection of useful books, which, by the low terms of access, might be placed within the reach of all, but especially of the young, who have a desire to read. The expense of membership is only fifty cents a year, which admits the individual to the use of a choice selection of about two hundred volumes—all useful and instructive works. This trifling sum may be easily afforded by every person, and serves, through mere force of the idea of *possessing* a share, to give the members a greater interest in the library, and make them more likely to improve its benefits, than if admission were gratuitous;—and at the same time, being carefully applied to the purchase of new books, it is sufficient to procure, in the course of a few years, an extensive and most valuable library. This institution has been in operation a little more than a year; and from the number of members and the extent to which the books are read, it seems to be well answering the purpose for which it was designed.

Besides the above, there is a *Circulating Library*, kept by Mr. Harper. There are a good many excellent books in this collection, but a much larger share of novels and other light reading; and, unfortunately, this is the portion most read.

CHAPTER XI.

GOVERNMENT OF THE BOROUGH OF READING—FIRE COMPANIES—MILITARY OFFICERS AND COMPANIES.

Reading was erected into a borough, by an act of the General Assembly passed September 12, 1783. The original act of incorporation was repealed on the twenty ninth of March 1813, and the present one passed.

The government of the borough is vested in a Chief Burgess, Assistant Burgess, and Town Council composed of nine members, who are declared a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Chief Burgess and Assistant Burgess and Town Council of the Borough of Reading;" to have perpetual succession; to be capable of [illegible] property, real, personal or mixed, not [illegible] thousand dollars; to sue [illegible] commonwealth; [illegible].

The stated meetings of the Town Council, five of whom constitute a quorum, [illegible] of April, July, October [illegible] Council Room in the new court-house. [illegible] to revise, repeal or amend, all existing bye-laws [illegible], and directed to enact such other bye-laws and make such rules, regulations and ordinances, as shall be deemed by a majority of said council necessary to promote the peace, good [illegible] [illegible] effect.

[illegible] Burgess [illegible] has jurisdiction in all cases of dispute that may arise between the corporation and individuals under the act of incorporation, or any bye-laws enacted by the town council; and also power to mitigate or remit fines and forfeitures on just and reasonable

excuse being rendered. The right of appeal, however, [illegible], to the court of common pleas, except in what relates to the imposing and collecting of the borough tax, and appointments made by the town council.

The above named officers, together with a Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Clerk of the market, and two supervisors of the streets, lanes, &c. of the borough, are elected annually on the first Monday in May; and the town council elect a High Constable, whose duty it is to give notice of the annual elections, and superintend the same.

The following persons compose the Borough Officers for the official year ending in May, 1841.—*Chief Burgess*, George W. Spayd. [illegible] John S. [illegible] H. [illegible] William [illegible] John M[illegible] Henry [illegible] William Strong, Henry Conrad, John Printz. *Treasurer*, William [illegible] Henry [illegible]

All citizens of the borough who have resided therein one year, and are qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, are entitled to vote at the annual elections of borough officers.

The borough is divided into two Election Wards, separated by Penn street, and called North and South Wards.

Watchmen.—[illegible] the frequent occurrence of fires in the night time, [illegible] years ago. They are armed with authority for the suppression of riots and disturbances, and the apprehension of suspicious or disorderly persons. Their duties, one of which is to cry the hours, commence at nine o'clock, and continue through the night.

Fire Companies.

There are few towns or cities where property is better secured from destruction by fire, than in Reading. A [illegible] of our most active and valuable young men have [illegible]

names as firemen, with no other inducement but their own public spirit and ambition for usefulness, to assume the arduous duties of this station. The various companies consequently are strong in numbers, and efficient. They are generally provided with engines and apparatus of excellent quality. The "Never-Sink," an engine lately purchased by the company bearing that name, is large and powerful, and very [illegible]. There are eighteen *fire plugs* at the most suitable points of the borough, so that water may be conveyed by means of hose to every part of the town: and since the construction of the Water Company's large reservoir, which is kept filled as a provision in case of fire, an abundant supply may always be relied upon.

The following is a list of the different fire companies—The Never Sink, the Junior Engine, the Rain Bow, and Reading Hose Companies, belonging to each of which is a Hose Carriage and sufficient hose. There is also a Hook and Ladder Company, and a Protection Company.

MILITARY OFFICERS AND COMPANIES.

General Officers.—George M. Keim, Major General of the Sixth Division of the Pennsylvania Militia.

William Riley and Alexander P. Miller, Aids.

William High, Brigadier General of the Second Brigade Sixth Division.

William H. Keim, Aid-de-camp.

John Schwartz, Brigade Major.

Jacob Shilling, Quarter Master.

Jeremiah Shappell, Brigade Inspector.

Officers of the 53d Regiment, 2d. Brigade, 6th Division, P. M.

Hugh Lindsay, Colonel.
John H. Keim, Lt. Colonel.
John [illegible], Major 1st Bat.
D. Gring, Jr. Maj 2d Bat.
Alex. H. Witman, Surgeon.

C. Peter Jackson, Adjutant.
Samuel Beard, Quarter Master.
John Boyer, Sergeant Major.
Wm. Wunder, Q. Master Serg.
George Drenkle, Fife Major.
Henry Homan, Drum Major.

W. Hibsham and John G. Marshall, Surgeon's Mates.

The *Reading Artillery* Company is composed of 83 active members.

Captain, William Strong. 2d Lieut., Henry Row.
1st Lieutenant, C. F. Jackson. 3d Lieut., John Goodhart.

The *Light Infantry* Company of Washington Greys, contains 59 members

Captain, Wm. H. Keim. 3d Lieut., F. B. Schoener.
1st Lieut., Geo. W. Oakley. Ensign, Geo. E. Ludwig.
2d Lieut., David McKnight.

The *Reading Troop*, contains 40 members.

Capt., John W. Burkhart. 2d Lieut., John H. Moore.
1st Lieut., John Price. Cornet, Jeremiah Coller.

CHAPTER XII.

Miscellaneous Matter.—Conclusion.

Having travelled through the course marked out for myself in the plan of the book, I find a little bundle of forlorn items upon my hands, which, though not entirely deficient in interest, failed of securing for themselves a lodgment by the way; and in order that they may not be utterly lost, I have concluded to give them a chapter by themselves.

Old Berks was erected into a county, and Reading established as the county-seat, in the year of grace one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two. The first *Deed* was recorded in the office, November the seventeenth, and the first *Will*, November the twenty-ninth of that year; and to complete the honors of the new county, a *law-suit* was instituted about the same time.

Here follow some records of the doings of His Majesty George the Third's Justices of the peace

"Berks County.

To one of ye Constables of Readińg.

Henry Christ Seal — Subpœna Philip Adam Klauser and Joseph Sellenberger of ye township of Bern, so that they be and appear before me and Wm. Reeser, on ye first day of September next at one of the clock in ye afternoon, then and there to give evidence in a certain dispute now depending before us and undetermined, between ye Lutheran and Reformed Congregations about Sanct. Michael's Church.—Hereof you are not to fail at your peril. Given under my hand and seal at Reading ye 27th day of August 1770.

Henry Christ.

"Berks ss.

L. S. — Apprehend George Geisler, and bring him immediately before me, or the next Justice to answer unto such matters and things, as on his Majesty's behalf shall be objected against him by Catharine Reese; hereof fail not.—Given under my hand and seal, Decr ye 28th 1770.

James Diemer.

To Samuel Jackson, Constable."

The [illegible] and I have no doubt that between the [illegible] and Catharine Reese, poor George Geisler had a hard time of it.

The following documents are interesting as illustrative of the times.

"An appraisement of the goods late the property of Wm. Rees, taken in execution—by Samuel Jackson, Constable.

One [illegible]	15s	£0	15s	0d.
One pair of leather Breeches	15s	0	15	0
		£1	10	0"

But [illegible] Samuel D[illegible] of [illegible].

"A list of the goods taken in execution [illegible] Samuel D-

hart by the Constable, and appraised by us the subscribers as follows. Amity August 24th 1770, to wit—

One coat	30*s*	£1	10*s*	0*d*
One Jacket & trowsers	12*s*	0	12	0
One rugg	5*s*	0	5	0
One pillow	2*s*	0	2	0
		£2	9	0

I am not quite sure that Mr. Dehart would congratulate himself that his *body* was left.

A body of Hessian prisoners captured at Trenton in 1776, together with many British, and the principal Scotch Royalists subdued and taken in North Carolina, were brought to Reading, and stationed in a grove on the bank of the river Schuylkill, in the south part of the borough. In the fall of the same year they were removed to the hill, east of the town, which is called the "Hessian camp" to this day. There they remained some time, and built themselves Huts in regular camp order, the greater part of which may be seen at the present day.

The oldest houses standing in the borough are, the house of Widow Graeff, No. 134 East Penn Street, formerly kept as a tavern; the house of Daniel Graeff, No. 153 East Penn Street; No. 158 in 8th st., between Penn and Washington, and the Spring Garden house.

The corner house occupied by Keim and Stichter, was built in the year 1755, by Conrad Weiser the Indian Interpreter and Agent for Government, and was for many years occupied as a wigwam, where many tribes met for treaty, &c.

The first coal stove was introduced into use in Reading in 1812, by William Stahle. And the first Stone coal was brought into town about the same time by Marks John Biddle, Esq.

Reading has, on two or three occasions, sustained considera.

[illegible] damage from the freshets in the river Schuylkill. The most remarkable freshets were in the years, 1786, 1822, 1839 and 1841. The following statement of their comparative height, as is made out by Peter Strohecker.

The freshet on the 21st of February, 1822, was six feet ten inches less than in 1786; January 25, 1839, it was four feet 2½ inches less than in 1786; January 8, 1841, it was 1 foot 6 inches less than in 1786. In 1839, it was two feet 6 inches higher than in 1822; in 1841, it was 2 feet 8½ inches higher than in 1839, taken from marks in [illegible] B. Keim's) fulling mill.

In 1841, the river rose 19 feet 1½ inches above low water mark: in 1786, 20 feet 7½ inches.

Friendly reader, my task is done—and thine also, if thou hast read faithfully: if not, a second perusal is modestly recommended. And now, from famine, floods, and folly, may P[illegible] and prudence preserve thee!

INDEX.

	Page
Academy, - - - - - - - -	52
Attorneys at Law, - - - - - - -	23
Apothecaries, - - - - - - - -	25
Anthracite Coal, first use of in Reading, - -	64
Berks County, formation of, - - - - -	62
Borough of Reading, its incorporation and government,	59
Blind, - - - - - - - -	14
Banks, - - - - - - -	40
Bridges, - - - - - - - -	36
Business Cards, - - - - - - -	27
Census, at different periods, - - - - -	13
" of 1840, remarks, - - - - - -	15
Churches and places of worship, - - - -	19
Colored population, census of, - - - -	14
" their churches, - - - -	22
Court-house, - - - - - - -	41
" Cost of, - - - - - - -	41
" Statue on, - - - - - -	42
Courts, - - - - - - - -	22
County Officers, - - - - - - -	23
Cars, arrival and departure of, - - - - -	59
Cabinet, - - - - - - -	56
Canals, - - - - - - - -	49
Deaf and Dumb, number of, - - - - -	14
Dwelling houses, list of, - - - - -	15
" built in 1840, - - - - -	31
Deep cut, for the Rail Road, - - - - -	50
Education, - - - - - - -	51
Forge Hammer, house so called, - - - -	15
Flour Mills, - - - - - - -	65
Fashionable resorts for recreation, - - - -	50
Female Seminary, - - - - - - -	52
Fire Companies, - - - - - - -	60
Freshets, - - - - - - - -	65
Green and Hot-house, - - - - - - -	26
Garrick Association, - - - - - -	58

PAGE.
Hotels and Inns. - - - - - 33
Hessian prisoners, - - - - - 64
Iron and Brass Foundry of Darling, Taylor & Co., - 47
Iron Foundry of Adam Johnston. - - - 48
Judges of the Courts. - - - - - - 22
Justices of the peace, - - - - - 24
" Ancient proceedings of, - 63
Jail. - - - - - - - 41
Keim, Whitaker & Co's Nail and Iron Works, - 46
Locomotive &c Manufactory of Dotterer & Co., - 47
Libraries, - - - - - - 57
Merchants and traders, - - - - - 25
Mechanical trades. - - - - - - 26
Mechanic's Institute, - - - - - 57
Markets, - - - - - - - 36
" Clerk of, his powers and duties, - - 37
Market houses, - - - - - - - 40
Milk Sellers. - - - - - - 37
Mails, Reading, history of, - - - - 38
" Arrival and departure of, - - - ibid.
Manufacturing establishments, - - - 45
Manufactures, prospects of Reading in regard to, - 48
Masonic Fraternity. - - - - - 56
Military Officers and Companies, - - - 61
Mineral Spring. - - - - - 51
Mountain Scenery. - - , ibid.
Newspapers, - - - - - 39
Nursery, - - - - - 26, 51
Old court-house, - - - - - 40
Oldest houses, - - - - - 64
Pensioners. - - - - - - - 14
Physicians. - - - - - - 25
Post Office. - - - - - - 38
Printing Offices. - - - - - 39
Public Buildings, - - - - - 40
Public offices. - - - - - 41
Philadelphia and Reading Rail-road. - - 49
" Abstract of business done by in 1840. 50
Reading, location and general description of - 9
" Settlement and early history, . - ibid.
" Extent of town. - - - - 12
Remarks on the census of 1840. - - - 16

Page.
Rolling Mill. 46

Surveyors. 24
Sheriffs. ibid.
Scriveners. ibid.
Streets and Alleys. 39
Stages, arrival and departure of. 35
State house. 41
Statue on the Court-house. 42
Stationary Steam Engine Manufactory of G. W. Taylor. 46
Schuylkill Canal. 49
Schools, public and private. 53
Sunday Schools. 54
Societies enumerated. 55

Taxable citizens, 15
" in 1760. ibid.

Union Canal. 49

Wards. 12
Watchmen. 60
Water Company. 50
William Penn Institute. 57

FINIS.

4040